Fee Concessions to Muslims.

44. *MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government or the Director of Public Instruction, has issued instructions to the effect that the new converts to Islam should not be given the fee concessions or other privileges enjoyed by Muslim students in general in the educational institutions in the State?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know at whose instance these instructions were issued?

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member please raise his voice?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Instructions were issued by the Director of Public Instruction on the basis of the principle enunciated by the Government.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know what were the reasons that compelled the Government to adopt this course?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The underlying object of the fee concession scheme is to assist communities which are backward economically and educationally. It is not meant to give assistance to religious organisations in the work of proselytisation.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether similar instructions are issued in the case of converts to other communities also?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir, it applies to all conversions.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know how many cases of new conversions to Islam seeking fee concession has been brought to the notice of the Director?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I remember two cases of Ezhava pupils who had become Muslims claiming concession.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know whether that was the reason why this step was taken?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The principle was enunciated more than ten years ago.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Is the member aware that there is wide spread feeling of discontent in the Muslim community on account of this?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not aware.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know on what consideration fee concession is given? Is it with regard to the religion to which the applicant belonged previously or to the present religion?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is a very complicated matter. If Mr. Abdur Rahiman Sahib's suggestion is adopted the problem of Mr. Abdullah Ghandi, if he happened to be a student in Travancore, will be very difficult. For the purpose of fee concession the community to which the pupil originally belonged will alone be considered.

Posting of Vernacular School Teachers.

45. ❋**MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara II*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that in spite of instructions from them that vernacular school teachers should be posted, as far as possible, in or near their native villages, a large number of them are not given the benefit of these instructions?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The answer is in the negative.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Am I to understand that almost all the vernacular school teachers are posted in their native places?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are grievances, but we do our best.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether instructions are issued to the effect that primary school teachers, as far as possible, should be posted in or near their native places?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): A circular to that effect has been issued by the Director.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether any complaint has been received by the Director saying that the teachers are not transferred to their native places?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As I said there are complaints and grievances as there is such a large number of teachers. But we are trying our best to post primary school teachers to the localities to which they belong.

Mamam River.

46. ❋**MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil II*): With reference to the Mamam river, will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to straighten or widen the course of the river from just below the Mamam bridge?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

Control of Traffic on main trunk roads.

47. ❋**MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have recently constituted a committee for submitting to the Government the recommendations for controlling and regulating the traffic on the main trunk roads, *etc*;

(*b*) the members appointed to work on the said committee; and

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